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[Text] Cochabamba, 22 Feb--The special antidrug police forces, "The Leopards", will enter Chapare at any moment to establish the principle of authority and

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BRIEFS

OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN TRAFFICKING--Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, 19 March--Agrarian reform authorities are investigating the communal land commissioner of Vallejo de Zaragoza, Efraim Marroquin, for involvement in drug trafficking and the smuggling of lumber, to the detriment of the communal farmers in that locality. The department's representative, Angel Torres Marin, noted that Marroquin had been charging 15,000 and 25,000 pesos per hectare for planting poppies and, through drafts worth a million pesos, stole lumber in order to take it to the port of Acapulco. The official claimed that these irregularities began in 1976, when Marroquin was appointed communal land commissioner in that community, and after a period in which he ceased to hold that position, he increased the drug trafficking. Now that he received the post again, he has resumed the lumber smuggling. According to the SRA [Secretariat of Agrarian Reform] representative, for this purpose Marroquin urged the commander of the 19th infantry battalion, Col Arturo Zavala Medina, to engage in this activity. Torres Martin concluded by saying that an investigation is being made of this charge. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 20 Mar 84 Sec A p 32] 2909

TRAFFICKERS SHOOT POLICE--Zacatecas, Zacatecas, 21 March--Four drug traffickers were killed and three policemen were wounded in a gun battle between State Judicial Police agents and criminals, which took place in the community of Muro, on the Jalisco border. When 15 police agents were carrying out a surveillance assignment in mountain settlements, they discovered a poppy plantation. As they approached the site, they were shot at by about 15 drug traffickers. Killed were four criminals, including the head of the ring, a municipal police agent from Tepic, Amador Lopez Cortez, Francisco Ortiz Castaneda, Jose Manuel Rios Banuelos and Eduardo Correa Correa. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 22 Mar 84 Sec A p 28] 2909

ARMY FINDS COLOMBIAN PLANE--Tehuacan, Puebla, 22 March--A 10-seat model 402 Cessna airplane with superimposed registration XB-DGS was discovered today by members of the 37th infantry battalion, who found inside the abandoned aircraft half a kilogram of marijuana and an apparatus purchase receipt from a Colombian business firm. The public ministry agent, Heriberto Aguilar Izquierdo, reported that the airplane was apparently Colombian, and its registration was HK-2686. He added that, according to the investigation, the plane had been crewed by two individuals who, after abandoning it, escaped in a car with Oaxaca license plates. The Titan Coobier II, the name of the aircraft, remained in the

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The directive from the president of the court also requires a report on the control and security systems in operation at the prison which would prevent the inmates from becoming involved in illegal activities.

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custody of the military unit, under the command of Capt Miguel Angel Saucedo. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 23 Mar 84 Sec C p 10] 2909

COCAINE SEIZURES REPORTED--Mexico City, 11 February (INFORMEX)--Today, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic announced that, thus far this year, the Federal Judicial Police have seized pure cocaine worthy 1.3 billion pesos on the black market in the United States. The drugs have been turned over to the country's health authorities, to be put to medical use. The entity also reported that the aforementioned volume of cocaine was obtained from seven separate operations, all taking place at the Benito Juarez international airport in this capital. The Federal Judicial Police, for their part, announced that the methods used by the drug traffickers which are most difficult to discover consist of bringing the drugs in contained in deodorant spray cans. The Judicial Police also said that other criminals carry the cocaine concealed in their stomachs, after they have swallowed it in capsules. Still other drug traffickers dilute the drugs in water to make their detection more difficult. Most of the drug traffickers captured this year have been of Colombian nationality. [Text] [Mexicali LA VOZ DE LA FRONTERA in Spanish 12 Feb 84 Sec B p 13] 2909

MARIJUANA, WEAPONS SEIZED--Guadalajara, Jalisco, 7 March (EXCELSIOR)--Federal Judicial Police agents seized 20 million pesos worth of marijuana and arrested the drug traffickers Alberto and Rafael Osorio Palomera, at the El Tigre farm in the municipality of Talpa. Nicolas Flores Almazan, the Federal Judicial Police commander in this city, announced that weapons and vehicles which the drug traffickers had kept hidden on the farm in the middle of the mountains were also confiscated. The police chief noted that, after the questioning to which they were subjected, the Osorio brothers admitted that they had dealt in the drugs with traffickers from Sinaloa, whose names were not known but whose whereabouts are being investigated. [Text] [Mexicali LA VOZ DE LA FRONTERA in Spanish 8 Mar 84 Sec B p 11] 2909

FEBRUARY ANTIDRUG RESULTS--Mexico City, 12 March (LEMUS)--The secretary of national defense, Gen Juan Arevalo Gardoqui, announced that Army forces, in their permanent campaign against the planting and trafficking of drugs, seized and destroyed drugs worth 28.051 billion pesos during February; adding that 159 presumed drug traffickers were arrested and 199 weapons and 2,731 rounds of ammunition were seized. [Excerpt] [Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 13 Mar 84 p 9] 2909

DRUG DEFENDANTS DENY CHARGES--Arguing their "innocence" and claiming to be too poor to be trafficking with a quarter of a kilogram of cocaine, Juan Carranza Rivas and Jose Luis Martinez Jasso retracted in the second district court the statements they had made to the Federal Judicial Police and the agency of the Public Ministry. They claimed to be victims, and argued that the drugs found in the Rambler vehicle with license plates EUZ-913 on Thursday afternoon by federal agents belonged to an individual named "David," from Laredo, Texas, who had left them in their care. Greatly encouraged by their

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defenders, the drug traffickers also claimed to have been beaten by Comdr Rogelio Hirachi Coutino and the group chief with the surname Saldivar. Juan Carranza Rivas had admitted to the Federal Judicial Police that he was a drug trafficker and had brought the drugs from Durango, having purchased them from an individual whom he identified as Oscar Dominguez. Yesterday, before the judge, he denied ever having left Nuevo Laredo, claiming that if he did so it was only to go to Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. He added that he was very "poor," and earned barely enough to support his family. As for "David," he explained that he had known him for a week, and was unaware that he was a drug trafficker. He said that, on the day of his capture, his erstwhile friend "David" had left the drugs with him and departed, never returning, until the federal police caught him. Jose Luis Martinez Jasso, for his part, denied all the charges, telling the judge that he had been beaten because he would not declare himself guilty, but that, in the end, he did so. Both claimed to be dissociated from trafficking, but could not explain how the quarter of a kilogram of cocaine ended up in their car, since "David" supposedly bought it. [Text] [Nuevo Laredo EL MANANA in Spanish 16 Mar 84 Sec B p 5] 2909

HEROIN SEIZED--San Luis-Rio Colorado, 28 February (PH)--Agents from the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, under orders from the Federal Judicial Police commander in this district, arrested two individuals here from whom they seized 50 grams of heroin worth more than 8 million pesos on the black market. The action took place on Madero Avenue and Eighth Street, as the subjects were walking and behaving suspiciously; this prompted both to be approached by the Federal Judicial Police, whereupon their uneasiness gave them away. The police agents searched them and found the aforementioned drugs. One of those arrested is the youth Daniel Joel Araiza Astorga, recording secretary of the criminal court, who was the owner of the drugs; while the other is Cesar Sotomayor Fimbres, a locksmith by trade, who was to be assigned to find a customer, in order to earn a commission of \$2,000, following an agreement made by the pair, according to a report given to EL IMPARCIAL by the PJF commander, Aurelio Raudales Garcia. The drugs were to be sold to a purchaser from the United States, and, according to Raudales Garcia, Araiza Astorga wanted to obtain the sum of \$10,000, based upon the drug traffickers' statements. [Text] [Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 9 Feb 84 p 2] 2909

DEFENSE SECRETARY INSPECTS SONORA--Yesterday, Gen Juan Arevalo Gardoqui, secretary of national defense, arrived in this capital for the purpose of inspecting and checking the proper operation of Armed Forces personnel and equipment in Sonora, and also to personally oversee the incineration of 20 tons of marijuana confiscated by Mexican Army forces. Coming from Ciudad Obregon, Arevalo Gardoqui arrived yesterday afternoon at the Ignacio L. Pesqueira international airport aboard the Mexican Air Force plane "Tarahumara," accompanied by high-ranking national defense officials. He was met by the governor of Sonora, Dr Samuel Ocana Garcia, and the commander of the Fourth Military Zone, Gen Angel Barron Viezcas. Today, the chief of the Armed Forces will attend and witness the burning of 20 tons of marijuana discovered by a company of riflemen from the 24th Infantry Battalion at the Los Chacuales farm in the municipality of Altar. The drugs were in a warehouse, packed and ready to be taken to the northern part of the country. According to a report from the Fourth Military Zone given yesterday, in this action by the military forces several implicated individuals were arrested, and will be turned over to the federal authorities. The soldiers also found high-caliber weapons, bullets, fuel for a small plane, scales and other items associated with drug trafficking. Upon Arevalo Gardoqui's arrival,

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it was learned that his visit was for the purpose of intensifying the National Army's action to prevent the spread of plantations and the trafficking of drugs which are seriously affecting the youth induced into this type of vice. In addition, the defense secretary is including in his brief working tour an inspection of the troops assigned to the Fourth Military Zone and the 38th Infantry Regiment, as well as the technical equipment at their disposal. The incineration of the marijuana confiscated by members of the Armed Forces will take place this morning, at the facilities of the Div Gen Gilberto R. Limon Marquez No 4 military camp. [Text] [Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 2 Mar 84 pp 1A, 4A] 2909

OFFICIALS WITNESS MARIJUANA BURNING--Yesterday, in what was described by the governor of Sonora, Dr Samuel Ocana Garcia, as "vigorous action and intensive combating of the planting and trafficking of drugs," 26 tons of marijuana worth several billion pesos on the black market were incinerated on the grounds of the Fourth Military Zone in this town. Ocana Garcia, who set fire to the tall heap of drugs to be burned, in the presence of the secretary of national defense, Gen Juan Arevalo Gardoqui, also commented: "The state government values in all its significance the resolved concern of the Mexican Army to eliminate this evil that it has been attempted to entrench in Sonora." Then he referred to Gen Arevalo Gardoqui who, he said, complying with instructions from President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, has at the same time shown a sign of solidarity with the people of Sonora in their productive effort "to eliminate what is upsetting the advancement of our progress." He also stressed that with actions such as this incineration, a response is being given to the drug traffic, which "has attempted to defy the Mexican Army, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic and the state government of Sonora," which, on their respective levels and with their individual authority, are maintaining a permanent battle against any kind of drug trafficking. The marijuana which, as was reported at the time, had been seized at the Los Chacuales farm in the municipality of Altar by riflemen from the 124th Infantry Battalion, was burned at an impressive ceremony which even evoked applause from scores of soldiers from the Fourth Military Zone who were present on the site. Attesting to this action was the agent of the Federal Public Ministry in Hermosillo, Gaston Galindo Lopez, who drew up the pertinent records which were signed by Arevalo Gardoqui, Governor Ocana and officials from federal agencies associated with this sector. [Text] [Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 3 Mar 84 p 2] 2909

PJF COMMANDER REPORTS--Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, 5 March (PH)--"The campaign against the drug traffic is continuing its battle on a permanent basis throughout our entire jurisdiction, which includes the area from the Sinaloa border to the settlement of Las Guasimas. The vigilance has not been neglected at any time, and we are on the watch, both on land and by air." After making the foregoing statement, the Federal Judicial Police commander, Arturo Castellanos Lira, said that, for an entire week last month, a tour was made of various sites in the mountains aboard two helicopters and a small airplane, but no drug plantations were found. He said that one was discovered in the Yecora mountains, but it was outside his jurisdiction, and those responsible for destroying it were the members of the same entity, but from the state capital.

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With regard to the rumors to the effect that there are underworld gangs heavily armed with machine guns who have devastated several locations in the mountains, such as Nuri, Cuba and Tesopaco, Comdr Castellano Lira claimed that these were nothing but mere rumors; because those places are under complete surveillance by members of the federal police. [Text] [Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 6 Mar 84 p 5] 2909

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